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UNCLAS KINGSTON 000741

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR IO/RHS
STATE FOR DRL/MLGA
STATE FOR EUR/PGI

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [RPEL](#) [UNHRC](#) [JM](#)
SUBJECT: JAMAICA: JAMAICAN RESPONSE ON BELARUS CANDIDACY
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: A. STATE 63345

[B](#). STATE 58036
[C](#). KINGSTON 708

[1](#). (SBU) Poloff met with Angella Brown, International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) to ascertain whether the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ) was planning to vote for Belarus to join the Human Rights Council. Without explicitly stating that they would vote for Belarus, Brown implied that Jamaica would do so. She noted that the original problem was there was no alternative slate of candidates to support. She also maintained that because members of the Human Rights Council are subject to a peer-review mechanism, it would be a "good" thing to have Belarus on the Council as it could lead them to "clean up their act." She also noted that the U.S. came "late" to this as there have only been two candidates proposed for "quite some time" and, therefore, most member states had already committed to the two candidates.

[2](#). (SBU) Brown also noted that the Jamaican Mission to the UN has had primary lead on this vote because the Jamaican Mission has been seeking support for the Jamaican candidate to the International Maritime Council. She was unsure whether or not the US Mission to the UN had ever approached their Jamaican counterparts at the UN to lobby directly.

[3](#). (SBU) DCM has contacted Permanent Secretary of the MFAFT Douglas Saunders to reiterate our concerns regarding Belurus' candidacy.
Johnson